

AML 3285 (1H96)  
American Indian Literature  
Spring 2015  
Meetings: Tuesdays, per. 7 (1:55-2:45); Thursdays period 7-8 (1:55-3:50), in TUR 2333

Instructor: Prof. Susan Hegeman, Department of English (<http://susanhegeman.wordpress.com>)  
PHONE: (352) 294-2815  
EMAIL: [sheaeman@ufl.edu](mailto:sheaeman@ufl.edu)  
OFFICE: 4119 Turlington Hall  
OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays 12:30-2:30 or by appointment

### Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to literature created by American Indian authors of the 20th and 21st centuries. We will consider American Indian literature as a postcolonial literature and as a creative and collective interpretation of history and culture. We will also examine how contemporary literature addresses issues of concern to Indian people, including legal sovereignty, cultural survival, representations of Indians in non-native communities, and issues of environmental stewardship.

### Course Objectives

Through genuine and persistent engagement with course materials, activities, and discussions, you will:

- gain knowledge of American Indian and First Nations history, literatures, and cultures
- gain knowledge of classic texts and issues in the field of American Indian literary studies
- develop skills in reading, analyzing, discussing, and writing about complex literary texts
- apply knowledge of the issues and contexts of American Indian literature in written analysis of literary works

### Required Course Materials

The following books are required for the course (listed in the order in which we will read them):

D'Arcy McNickle, *The Surrounded* (0826304699 U Oklahoma Press) 315 pages  
N. Scott Momaday, *House Made of Dawn* (978-0061859977) 208 pages  
Tomson Highway, *Kiss of the Fur Queen* (U Oklahoma Press) 306 pages  
Le Anne Howe, *Shell Shaker* (978-1879960619) 216 pages  
Louise Erdrich, *The Round House* (978-0062065254) 368 pages  
Leslie Marmon Silko, *Gardens in the Dunes* (9780684863320) 480 pages

You will also be required to view one film, *Atanarjuat* (2001, directed by Zacharias Kunuk). The film is available to stream or download at the following site: <http://www.isuma.tv/fastrunnertriloav>. If you have trouble getting access to the film, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor well in advance of Feb. 26, when the film will be discussed in class, to make other viewing arrangements.

All other course materials—supplementary readings, syllabus, documents, assignments, course calendar and discussion prompts—will be posted on the course's Canvas e-learning website, which can be accessed via the following link: "E-Learning Support Services" (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>). To use e-learning, click on the blue "e-learning in Canvas" button. You will then be asked to log in using your Gátórnk username and password. If for some reason have trouble using your Gátórnk account, go to the Gátórnk website <http://aatorlink.ufl.edu>.

For help with Canvas, contact the UF Computing Help Desk:

**Web:** <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>  
**Walk-in:** HUB 132  
**Phone:** (352) 392-HELP (4357)  
**Email:** [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)

Any requests for accommodations (i.e. credit for overdue work) due to technical issues must be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem.

### Course Content Note

The study of the history and literature of American Indians necessitates occasionally reading about and discussing disturbing topics, including violence and sexual abuse. If you ever feel the need to leave a class discussion, either for a short time or for the rest of the class session, you may do so without academic penalty. You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss. If you do leave the room for a significant time, please make arrangements to get notes from another student or see me individually. You are welcome to discuss your personal reactions to the course material with me in office hours.

### Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance	10% of final grade
------------	--------------------

Classroom participation	10% of final grade
online discussion	20% of final grade
Paper 1 (due February 28)	30% of final grade
Paper 2 (due April 23)	30% of final grade

Please note that as of 2009 the UF grading scale has changed. For more information, consult the [2009-10 Undergraduate Catalogue: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html).

#### **Attendance**

Attendance is defined as attentive presence in the classroom. In other words, if you are very late to class or engage in non-class related activities during class time (sleeping, studying, texting, web browsing, etc.) you will be counted as absent.

University policy requires that absences be accepted with prior notice for university sponsored events (e.g., athletics) and religious holidays. Otherwise, all absences will be regarded as unexcused, regardless of their reason. In other words, I don't accept doctors' notes or other excuse from work/school notes.

Your attendance grade will be determined as follows:

- 0-1 absences: maximum attendance grade: A
- 2 absences: maximum attendance grade: A-
- 3 absences: maximum attendance grade: B+
- 4 absences: maximum attendance grade: B
- 5 absences: maximum attendance grade: B-
- 6 absences: maximum attendance grade: C+
- 7 absences: maximum attendance grade: C
- 8 absences: maximum attendance grade: C-
- 9 or more absences: automatic failure of the course

#### **Classroom Participation**

Students will be graded on the quality of their oral contributions to classroom discussion. The best grades will be given to those who offer informed, incisive, and relevant comments regarding the course readings and related discussions.

#### **Online discussions**

Students are expected to post weekly to the "Discussions" section of the Canvas course website. Posts should be about 100-300 words. They can be responses to prompts from me, reflections on readings or class discussions, further research on a topic of interest to you, comments on other students' posts, or a space for developing paper topics. Students are expected to maintain the same standards of respectful exchange that they are held to in class discussions. The online discussions will be graded as follows:

- A = 12 posts
- A- = 11 posts
- B+= 10 posts
- B = 9 posts
- B- =8 posts
- C+ =7 posts
- C = 6 posts
- C- = 5 posts
- D+ =4 posts
- D =3 posts
- D- = 2 posts
- E= 1 or 0 posts

#### **Papers**

Students will write 2 papers, of 1800-2400 words each. The topics will be announced on Canvas well in advance of the due dates of Feb 27 and April 22, respectively.

Paper grades will be determined on the following criteria, in general order of emphasis:

- Argumentation: clear thesis, logical sequence of argument, logical conclusions
- Use of appropriate evidence from the texts
- Demonstrated understanding of contextual issues in relation to works discussed (accurate use of terminology and historical information; accurate application to texts)
- Mechanics: punctuation, spelling, word choice and usage, sentence construction, paragraphing
- Proofreading and citations

#### **Students with Disabilities**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource Center in the [Dean of Students Office](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation—which must be shown to the Instructor—that specifies what kind of accommodations are needed. Accommodation must be requested before any written assignments are turned in.

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

You are required to review the university's [Academic Honor Code and the Academic Honesty Guidelines](#), especially the discussion of plagiarism, found in the Undergraduate Catalogue. Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic failure of the assignment and the filing of a report in your academic file.

Types of plagiarism include (but are not limited to):

- presenting work written in whole or in part by someone else as your own (for example submitting a paper written by a friend; a purchased or retyped paper; or one taken from a file)
- directly quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing from external sources without proper citations. Many students fail to fully understand that even such possibly innocent mistakes as paraphrasing the work of others or failure to give proper citation is a serious form of plagiarism. Because such mistakes are potentially serious, you should talk to the Instructor if you have any questions about plagiarism, academic honesty, or proper research and citation methods.

### **Schedule of Readings and Discussions**

#### WEEK 1

T January 6 course introduction  
R Jan 8 CLASS CANCELED

#### WEEK 2

T Jan 13 Charles C. Mann, "1491"  
R Jan 15 Simon Ortiz, "Towards a National Indian Literature;" Alexie, "How to Write the Great American Indian Novel".  
Recommended: chapters 1 and 5 of Fanon, "Black Skin, White Masks

#### WEEK 3

T Jan 20 D'Arcy McNickle, The Surrounded  
R Jan 22 D'Arcy McNickle, The Surrounded

#### WEEK 4

T Jan 27 D'Arcy McNickle, The Surrounded  
R Jan 29 D'Arcy McNickle, The Surrounded; begin Scott Momaday, House Made of Dawn

#### WEEK 5

T Feb 3 N. Scott Momaday, House Made of Dawn  
R Feb 5 N. Scott Momaday, House Made of Dawn

#### WEEK 6

T Feb 10 N. Scott Momaday, House Made of Dawn  
R Feb 12 Scott Momaday, House Made of Dawn; begin Thomson Highway, Kiss of the Fur Queen

#### WEEK 7

T Feb 17 Thomson Highway, Kiss of the Fur Queen  
R Feb 19 Thomson Highway, Kiss of the Fur Queen

#### WEEK 8

T Feb 24 Thomson Highway, Kiss of the Fur Queen  
R Feb 26 discuss film, Atanarjuat, The Fast Runner (Dir. Kunuk)  
F Feb 27 FIRST PAPER DUE, 5 pm

#### WEEK 9

NO CLASSES; SPRING BREAK

#### WEEK 10

T Mar 10 LeAnne Howe, Shell Shaker  
R Mar 12 LeAnne Howe, Shell Shaker

#### WEEK 11

T Mar 17 LeAnne Howe, Shell Shaker  
R Mar 19 LeAnne Howe, Shell Shaker; begin Louise Erdrich, The Round House

#### WEEK 12

T Mar 24 Louise Erdrich, The Round House  
R Mar 26 Louise Erdrich, The Round House

#### WEEK 13

M Mar 31 Louise Erdrich, The Round House  
W Apr 2 Louise Erdrich, The Round House

WEEK 14

T Apr 7 Silko, Gardens in the Dunes  
R Apr 9 Silko, Gardens in the Dunes

WEEK 15

T Apr 14 Silko, Gardens in the Dunes  
R Apr 16 Silko, Gardens in the Dunes

WEEK 16

T Apr 21 Silko, Gardens in the Dunes  
W April 22 SECOND PAPER DUE, 5 pm